

## **Chapter 110- Water Conservation**

### **ARTICLE I – IN GENERAL**

#### **Sec. 110-1. - Short title.**

This chapter shall be cited as the Water Conservation Ordinance of the City of Summerville, Georgia.

#### **Sec. 110-2. - Purpose.**

The purpose of this chapter is to promote water conservation by establishing water use rules for year round water conservation, to promote the efficient use of water, to reduce or eliminate the waste of water in the city, and to enable implementation of the city's water shortage contingency measures.

#### **Sec. 110-3. - Adoption of water use rules.**

The city hereby adopts by reference the outdoor water use rules mandated by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division ("EPD"), from time to time, as the same may be modified by the City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management (the "EPD/Watershed Management Rules"). A copy of the current EPD/Watershed Management Rules is incorporated herein by reference, and a current copy of the same shall be maintained in the office of the city clerk.

#### **Sec. 110-4. - Water conservation incentives.**

The city has developed and implemented economic incentives for conservative water use, identified as the "City of Summerville Water Conservation Permit Incentive Program," a copy of which will be maintained on file with the city's department of community development.

#### **Sec. 110-5. - Additional water conservation measures.**

In addition to the water conservation requirements established by this chapter, the city manager or his or her designee is authorized to develop and promulgate additional water conservation plans and measures which shall be directed to achieve target goals for water conservation as determined by the city council by resolution from time to time.

### **ARTICLE II. - SPECIFIC WATER CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Sec. 110-6. - Rain sensor shut-off switch required.**

- a. As used in this Code section, the term "rain sensor shut-off switch" means an electric device that detects and measures rainfall amounts and overrides the cycle of an irrigation system so as to turn off such system when a predetermined amount of rain has fallen or whether the temperature is 32 degrees Fahrenheit (zero degrees Celsius) or below.
- b.
  1. No person shall install any landscape irrigation system equipped with an electronic controller that does not have a rain sensor shut-off switch.
  2. Subsection 110-6(b)(1) shall not apply to either landscape irrigation systems installed on golf courses or any system dependent upon a nonpublic water source.

#### **Sec. 110-6.1. - Water stewardship restrictions.**

- a. Persons may irrigate outdoors daily for purposes of planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants only between the hours of 4:00 p.m., and 10:00 a.m.
- b. Paragraph (a) of this section shall not create any limitations upon the following outdoor water uses:
  1. Commercial agricultural operations as defined in O.C.G.A. § 1-3-3;
  2. Capture and reuse of cooling system condensate or storm water in compliance with applicable city regulations and state guidelines;

3. Reuse of gray water in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 31-3-5.2 and applicable Fulton County Board of Health regulations adopted pursuant thereto;
4. Use of reclaimed wastewater by a designated user from a system permitted by the Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to provide reclaimed wastewater;
5. Irrigation of personal food gardens;
6. Irrigation of new and replanted plant, seed, or turf in landscapes, golf courses, or sports turf fields during installation and for a period of 30 days immediately following the date of installation;
7. Drip irrigation or irrigation using soaker hoses;
8. Hand watering with a hose with automatic cutoff or handheld container;
9. Use of water withdrawn from private water wells or surface water by an owner or operator of property if such well or surface water is on said property;
10. Irrigation of horticultural crops held for sale, resale, or installation;
11. Irrigation of athletic fields, golf courses, or public turf grass recreational areas;
12. Installation, maintenance, or calibration of irrigation systems; or
13. Hydro seeding.

### **ARTICLE III. – ENFORCEMENT**

#### **Sec. 110-7. - Compatibility with other regulations.**

This article is not intended to modify or repeal any other chapter, rule, regulation, or other provision of law. The requirements of this article are in addition to the requirements of any other chapter, rule, regulation, or other provision of law, and where any provision of this article imposes restrictions different from those imposed by any other chapter, rule, regulation, or other provision of law, whichever provision is more restrictive or imposes higher protective standards for human health or the environment shall control.

#### **Sec. 110-8. - Violations.**

Any violation of this chapter in effect from time to time shall constitute a violation of this chapter as set forth in Chapter 103, Article III, Section 103-10.